

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05419

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E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJECT: COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY

REFS: A. STATE 29707 B. STATE 24301

1. PURSUANT TO REF A INSTRUCTIONS, USDEL CONSULTED INFORMALLY ON QUESTION OF COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY WITH FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, DUTCH, UK, CANADIAN, BELGIAN, AND JAPANESE DELEGATES.
2. FRENCH DEL RECALLED THAT HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH STAFFDEL MAJAK THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGE IN COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY INCLUDING THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS LISTED IN PARA 3 REF B. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN FRANCE HE SAID, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND ANY MOVE TO CHANGE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF CONFIDENTIALITY "VERY AWKWARD." HE CLOSED OFF ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER BY STATING THAT THIS WAS THE FINAL FRENCH POLICY ON THE MATTER.

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3. BOTH GERMAN AND JAPANESE DELEGATES EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE USG WAS RAISING THE QUESTION OF CHANGING THE COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY GROUND RULES. BOTH DELS FELT THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA 3 REF B. GERMAN DEL STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE ARGUMENTS CITED IN REFTTEL A WOULD PERSUADE HIS

GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE. JAPANESE DEL SAID, INTER ALIA, THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE COCOM LIST WOULD CAUSE MANY PROBLEMS FOR HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH DOES NOT NOW PUBLISH A PRODUCT EMBARGO LIST.

4. CANADIAN DEL SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE REACTION OF HER AUTHORITIES WOULD BE TO SUCH DECLASSIFICATION. SHE EXPRESSED THE VIEW HOWEVER, THAT THE PUBLICATION OF COCOM LIST WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN NATIONAL LISTS MORE RESTRICTIVE IN CERTAIN COMMODITY GROUPINGS IF THEY FELT THERE WAS A NECESSITY TO DO SO. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT SECTION 117 OF THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS WAS IN FACT ASKING FOR ONLY ONE OF THE COCOM DOCUMENTS, I.E., THE COCOM LIST AND SAID THAT SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DECLASSIFYING THIS OR THE OTHER COCOM DOCUMENTS. SHE SPECULATED THAT HER AUTHORITIES MIGHT FIND IT VERY EMBARRASSING TO HAVE THE LIST REVIEW PROCEDURES AND THE LIST REVIEW RESULTS PUBLISHED SINCE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW LONG IT TAKES TO ACCOMPLISH SO LITTLE.

5. ITALIAN DEL MENTIONED THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN HIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05419

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COUNTRY AND INDICATED THAT IT WAS VERY LIKELY THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN COCOM'S PRESENT SYSTEM OF CONFIDENTIALITY.

6. BELGIAN DELS VIEWS WERE AMBIVALENT ON QUESTION OF

COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE WERE PUBLISHED THE PUBLIC, I.E., BUSINESS FIRMS, WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT SUCH PROCEDURES WERE BEING ADHERED TO. THIS COULD, HE SAID, LEAVE THE COMMITTEE (AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR) OPEN TO INCREASED PUBLIC PRESSURE AND CRITICISM.

7. DUTCH DEL SAID THAT THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE ANY LIBERALIZATION OF COCOM'S CONFIDENTIALITY RULES SINCE OFFICIALS IN THAT MINISTRY ALREADY FEEL THAT TOO MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THE EMBARGO. HE SURMISED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE OPPOSED TO SUCH A CHANGE.

8. ALTHOUGH U.K. DEL DID NOT VENTURE ANY OPINION REGARDING HIS OWN AUTHORITIES' POSITION ON COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY, HE DID EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAIN IN COCOM IF IT WAS DIVESTED OF ITS CLOAK OF CONFIDENTIALITY.

9. ALL OF THE DELEGATES, EXCEPT THE FRENCH, SAID THAT THEY WOULD CHECK WITH THEIR AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR INFORMAL VIEWS ON THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS MENTIONED IN REF B. USDEL HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ANY REACTIONS BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. KATZ

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